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CALIFORNIA MUSICAL JOURNAL

F. L. Zifferer,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Contents.

Special Articles—Coast Echoes—Eastern Items—Sharps and Flats—Concert Notes—Theatrical—Coast Correspondence—Editorial—General Notes—Local Items—Etc.

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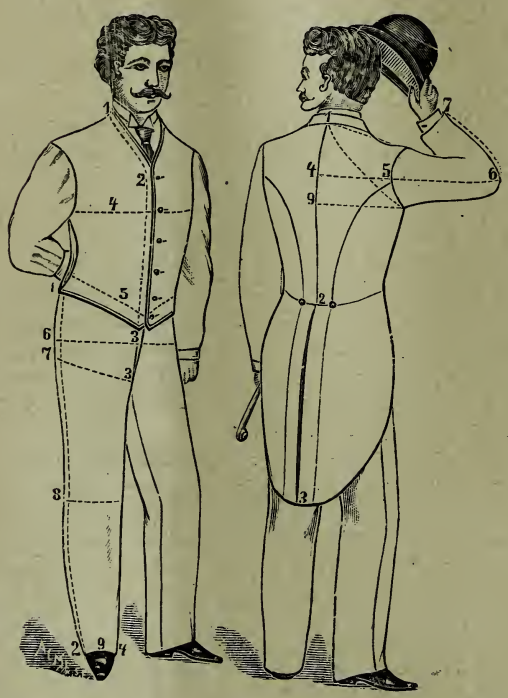

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California Musical Journal.

VOL. 2 SAN FRANCISCO, JULY & AUGUST, 1896. NOS. 9 & 10

The Editor's Summer Tour.

The trip through the Southern part of the State, which Mr. Zifferer has just completed, was very interesting and no doubt beneficial to his health and to the welfare of the JOURNAL. He visited nearly all the teachers in the different cities and towns, making many friends and succeeding in establishing Agencies and correspondents in nearly every place of importance.

Modesto, his first stopping place, is a neat little city wherein are quite a number of music teachers, among whom Prof. Hinz takes the lead.

Merced and Madera are small places, but each has a few ladies who teach music to the best of their ability.

Fresno is a fine city and is in musical matters quite up to the times. There are several music stores, of which the one kept by Mr. Neu is the largest and best. Mr. Neu, himself, is a very sociable and obliging gentleman, thoroughly square in his dealings, which accounts for his success.

There are a number of teachers in Fresno, all doing well. The rivalry between Mr. B. W. Fabian and Mr. M. M. Mayers is a source of great amusement to the musical community. Each of these gentlemen has his followers. At a recent concert, where both of them played, each received the applause of his respective faction, which being nearly equally divided, "honors were easy" and neither carried the field. Their cententious rivalry has got into the papers to the extent of considerable free but undesirable advertising for them.

Hanford, Visalia and Tulare are all more or less musical and well supplied with piano teachers.

Bakersfield is one of the most thriving places visited. In every house there is a piano and someone who is interested in music. The few teachers who are there, have all they can do to cultivate the taste and interest of the numerous eager young musicians.

Miss Fannie L. Maio, a prominent music teacher, was triumphantly elected Queen of the Fourth of July festivities. Her election cost one enthusiastic citizen, not at all related to the lady, a cool $600 expended for 24,000 votes in her favor, which sum went to the celebration fund, 60,000 votes being cast.

This indicates the popularity of Miss Maio, and incidentally a comparative abundance of money in Bakersfield.

Los Angeles has quite a musical community and about fourteen music stores, of which Messrs. Blanchard & Fitzgerald, Kohler & Chase under the able management of Mr. Fisher, and Gardner & Zellner are in the lead. About 200 teachers supply the wants of musical aspirants. Several Brass Bands, one of them organized by the wide-awake firm Blanchard & Fitzgerald, another by Prof. Engels are flourishing.

The latter band has an engagement to play in Santa Monica during the summer months.

Prof. Kraus, a fine violinist, leads an orchestra. Mr. de Lano and Mr. Warren, both mandolin teachers, have each a mandolin club. There was a singing society called the Ellis Club, but it has disbanded.

The Dudley-Buck Concert Club, under the direction of Mr. Cornell, and the Woman's Orchestra, under the batan of Prof. Hamilton, are in a prosperous condition.

Mr. Romandy, who came to California with Rosner's Hungarian Orchestra, is the present leader of the Orchestra at the Orpheum. He has a charming home at Alhambra.

Madame Fabri and Jacob Muller are busy from morning till night cultivating the beautiful voices of this section of the country. Miss Jennie Kempton, the noted concert singer of yore, Mr. Cornell and Mr. Morrison are among the leading vocal teachers.

The piano teachers are too numerous to mention in this article. Of the neighboring places we may mention Pasadena, which has a fine Methodist college under the Directorship of Prof. Randall, a highly esteemed gentleman. The musical department of this college was for seven years under the

care of Prof. Piutti, who has left Los Angeles to become the Dean of the Conservatory of U. P. at San Jose.

Pomona, although a small place, has a great number of music loving people. Prof. Hunter is the leading teacher.

San Bernardino, a city of several thousand inhabitants, shows very little interest in music, although supplied with quite a number of music teachers, among whom Prof. Skinner is the leader. This lack of musical interest is doubtless the fault of the resident teachers, among whom is one old German fossil whose inertia would blight any sort of progress.

Redlands, though only nine years old, is wide awake and besides containing seventeen churches has a number of musical societies. The Spinet Club of twenty young lady pianists, the only one we know of in that region, is particularly flourishing. Mr. and Mrs. Gunther are the leading piano and violin teachers.

San Diego, has three music stores, the prominent ones being the Darrow-Pattison Music Co. and Geo. F. Birkel.

Music teachers however are numerous. Mr. Walter Young conducts the "Philharmonic" Musical Society, which recently gave a creditable concert. Lieut. R. H. Noble, U. S. A., sang, and on this occasion as usual, made a deep impression upon his feminine hearers. Mr. Boekh leads a well trained band of twenty pieces.

Riverside and Santa Anna are quite musical, especially the latter, which has a well organized choral society and orchestra, both under the able leadership of Mr. Lndwig Thomas.

Santa Barbara is a thoroughly musical little place, and is well stocked with excellent talent. Its chief musical organizations are the City Band and the Philharmonic Orchestra, both conducted by Hans Schuy, the Amateur Musical Orchestra, conducted by W. J. McCoy and the Schubert (Vocal, Ladies' Voices) Club conducted by Mrs. G. H. Wright. Another band, the Channel City Marine Band, conducted by W. J. McCoy, seems to be in a moribund condition. Besides these societies Santa Barbara's chief exponents of the musical art are: Gerard Barton and Lewis Thwaites, Organists; Mrs. W. S. C. Lord, pianist; Mr. and Mrs. Courtney, teachers of singing and organ; Mrs. Higgins and others, teachers of piano and Messrs. Al. Braverman and Geo. Kalthoff, teachers of violin.

It is a great pity that in a place so well provided as Santa Barbara is with good musicians, greater harmony does not prevail among them. Verily it is a house divided against itself, the two different factions, having Messrs. Schuy and McCoy respectively at their heads, being most rancorous and bitter against each other. In the interests of good music, it is greatly to be hoped that this unfortunate state of things may soon be changed.

Apart from the hurly-burly, Gerard Barton, who is an old established musician here, disinterestedly views the turmoil. Mr. Barton spends his time teaching, composing, and, in the season, giving a number of Organ Recitals on his charming little instrument in the Unity Church. Mr. Lewis Thwaites, an entirely new comer here, the organist of Trinity Episcopal Church, is spoken of in terms of the highest praise. It is to be hoped that he may be prevailed upon to stay, and that the singing at this Church, which, at present it is impossible to praise, may be improved.

For the rest, Messrs. Braverman and Kalthoff, the violinists, and. Mesdames Lord and Higgins, the pianists, each command a large clientele, while Mr. and Mrs. Courtney unobtrusively, but none the less effectively, instruct a good class of pupils in their respective lines.

The most prominent musical amateurs here are, among the orchestral players (of whom there seems to be a surprisingly large number), Miss Nickerson (violin), Mrs. Hall (saxophone), Mr. Ronald Thomas (clarinet), and Mr. Fred Grundy (violoncello). Some fine vocalists can be heard in Madame Gallardo, Mrs. G. H. Wright, and Mrs. Hanford (soprani), Miss Marion Titt (contralto), Mr. Robert Fulton (baritone). If only all the musical people here would pull together, Santa Barbara could undoubtedly produce a combination of players and singers that might be both the admiration and envy of many a place possessing a far larger number of residents.

A Few Practical Harmony Lessons.

ARRANGED BY F. J. ZIFFERER.

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In our June issue, we dealt with the cadence formed by the three *Major* triads which the Major scale contains. The scale contains, in like manner, three triads which are Minor. This distinction is due to the larger or smaller interval which exists between the first and third degree of the triad. In the triads C, E, G—F, A, C, and G, B, D, the interval from 1 to 3 in each of them is *Major* or larger, compared with the interval between 1 and 3 in the triads A, C, E—D, F, A, and E, G, B, which latter are the three Minor triads.

This difference is only that of the third with reference to the first, which in one case is *Major* or larger than in the other, when it is *Minor* or

smaller. The fifth in the triads is the same distance from the first in both sets of triads. Play them on the piano and note the difference in sound and interval, counting both the black and white keys intervening. These three Minor triads can be combined into a cadence precisely as those which are Major were treated in our last edition. It is however, no longer customary to do so except in church music, and an accidental is now generally used to *raise* the third in one of these Minor triads to the dignity of a Major. This is applied to the triad which serves as the *Dominant*, the triad upon A being the Tonic and that upon D the Sub-Dominant, the entire cadence being then formed from A, C, E—D, F, A, and E, G, B, it will be in the latter triad when G the Minor third must be raised to a Major by using a sharp. The triad becoming E, G sharp B. This alteration is always in the form of an accidental, and is never indicated in the signature.

There being seven tones in a scale, we have formed a triad upon six of them, three of which were *Major*, three *Minor*. The remaining tone is the seventh. In the scale of C, it would be B, a triad formed upon B consisting of B, D, F, being unlike any of the others will be explained hereafter.

It is unnecessary to describe the Minor scale here now. The Tonic of the Minor scale is a Minor third below the Tonic of the relative Major scale and from it as a starting point, we can build the system of Minor harmony just as we did that of the Major.

New Music.

Dancing Stars, Valse de Salon, by Ch. Godard; Two Happy Coons, Schottische, by Northrup; Little Red Ridinghood, Song with Waltz, Refrain, by Martinetti; The Deacon Went Astray, Comic Song, mezzo soprano, by Packard; Yesterday, Today and Forever, beautiful ballad, mezzo soprano, by Oscar Verne; My Darling, by Doste, for alto; Out-post, bass, Pinsuti.—Pacific Music Company, 816 Market St., San Francisco.

Sousa's latest, Band and Orchestra, El Capitan; Cavalry Charge, Leuders; Tone Pictures from North and South.—Kohler & Chase, 26 O'Farrell St.

Soprano song, For the Sake of the Past, Mallec; alto song, My Dreams of Yore, Rodney; bass song, The Time Will Come, by Herbert.—Sherman, Clay & Co.

Weeks—How did you enjoy the opera last night?

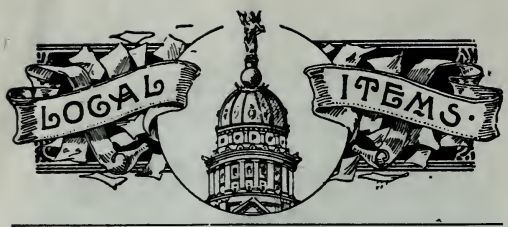
Blinks—It was splendid, every bit of it, except the singing.

William Piutti

We take pleasure in bringing before our readers a picture of Mr. William Piutti, the new dean of the Conservatory of Music of the University of the Pacific at San Jose. Mr. Piutti is a stranger to us, but Chevalier de Kontski spoke of him as a musician in terms of high praise in a letter to us, which we published in our January number. We are informed that Mr. Piutti brings to his present position a rare experience in teaching and lecturing, and that he is a pianist of no mean order. He was a piano pupil of the Stuttgart Conservatory and of Professor Speidel, and studied theory under Seifriz, Joachim Raff, Woldemar Bargiel, the celebrated composers. Later on he was one of those who crowded around Franz Liszt at Weimar, receiving the master's approval of his playing upon several occasions, notably when he performed the great Spanish Rhapsody. Wells College at Aurora (N. Y.) was the scene of his labors as a teacher for six years. Later he settled in Los Angeles for the benefit of his health. Today Mr. Piutti is perfectly well, and we think particularly fitted for his position as teacher, player, composer, lecturer and conductor. We commend the University for their choice.

Ethel (to small friend)—I tell you my sister can play fine. Just hear her do the "Popular Swing."

Nelly—Oh, that's nothing. I've got a big brother that can play it with one finger, and your sister has to take two hands to it.



The directors of the Mechanics' Institute have rejected the application of Fritz Scheel to furnish the music for the next Fair, and accepted the offer of Mr. Gustave Hinrichs, the able conductor of the Tivoli Opera House. No better choice could have been made.

The Musicians' Union has come into active conflict with several rival interests It seems that besides the regular Army bands, which belong to Uncle Sam for Army service, but occasionally accept outside engagements, the letter carriers have found time after hours to cultivate their united wind-jamming propensities, and also enter the field of competition with the citizen horn blowers. This will never do, and must be stopped. Then there is a Russian band playing at the Chutes, which is a very irritating competitor for the infrequent jobs upon which union men must rely. A strong effort is being made to abate these several evils.

Mrs. Eva Tenney, long and favorably known as a choir singer here, has recently become insane and been sent, we hope temporarily, to the asylum at Ukiah. Overwork and nervous prostration are the causes of her misfortune.

Mr Louis Schmidt, Sr., who has been identified with music as a teacher and performer here for over thirty years, suddenly expired in the street, July 3rd, of heart failure, aged 64. His funeral was largely attended in Trinity Church, of which he had formerly been the organist. He was the organist of Temple Emanuel, a position he had held over twenty years. The vacancy there has not yet been filled. Nearly thirty applicants have applied for the place, and are being "tried" one after the other on succeeding Saturdays. Mr. Schmidt was also teacher of violin and harmony at Mills' Seminary. Many teachers are also anxious to obtain that place.

An ill wind that which blows away our friends, even to hospitable shores. For a number of years no one among the few notably musical households of San Francisco has been more delightful than that of the Younger family. Their beautiful music room and the playing and singing heard within its walls now constitute only a pleasant memory. Mrs. Younger spends much of her time in visiting Old Leschetizky in Vienna, while Dr. Younger's celebrity as a dentist has become too world wide for such a "pent-up Utica" as San Francisco. The demand for his services is such that he seems to oscillate from Chicago to Europe, the swing only infrequently bringing him back to us. We hope he gains as much as we lose by the new arrangement, which is a liberal extent of well wishing, especially when it is made in spite of a sense of the personal bereavement his emigration inflicts upon the host of friends he thereby deprives of the society of his family.

Paderewski's visit and the information vouchsafed the public regarding his methods of practice: that he repeats a phrase some thousands of times in succession, seems to have inspired the emulation of at least one local pianistic Boanerges, who reiterates some particularly difficult and unmusical bit so persistently and so many hours at a stretch that the vicinity of O'Farrell and Market streets is rendered almost uninhabitable. People shut their doors and transoms, the engine horses frantically stamp their disapproval, while mankind borders on lunacy and swears vainly. The only hope of relief seems to lie in a popular subscription towards a dumb piano or a practice cloaier for the indefatigable artist, or, as a last resort by an outraged populace, rat poison. To call his attention to the collapse of poor Paderewski from over-practice and vain repetitions would hardly be efficacious.

At the meeting of the Woman's Press Association at Shasta Hall, San Francisco, on Monday last, two of Oakland's artists won noble honors. The programme was pleasant and instructive and read as follows: Vocal solo, "Heart and Rose" (Metcalf), Mr. Ed. Thornton; reading, "A Tale" (Robert Browning), Miss Mabel Hussey; solo, a "Allah" (Chadwick), b "Celeste," Mrs. Eva Wren; address on the Silver Question, Hon. Wm. H. Mills; solo, "Rainbows" (Hawley), Mr. Ed. Thornton. In the absence of Mr. Mills, Miss Susan B. Anthony gave a most excellent impromptu address.

Miss Katherine White, piano recital, August 18th, assisted by Dr. Gilbert F. Graham, vocalist.

The finely appointed girls' seminary of Miss Lake has succumbed to the stress of hard times and closed its doors. This institution succeeded Madame Ziska's school, and by the irony of fate, as Miss Lake goes down Madame Ziska is coming up again in prosperity, her Van Ness Avenue school being likely to resume its old position as the leading seminary of the city.

The San Francisco Oratorio Society will take up Buck's "Light of Asia," on entering its second year of work Many members who have been on their vacations will now return to active participation in the ensemble part, bringing new members with them. Whenever works are given, the home society and the Oakland Oratorio Society will unite for the purpose of giving more volume and grander effects. Any desiring to join may apply at 308 Post street.

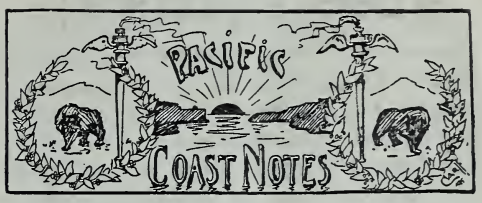
The Pacific Music Company having paid heavy rent for a large stock of cubic air long enough, has wisely converted the rear of their commodious store into a two story piano repository, and evidently intend to challenge the two big houses on the opposite side of O'Farrell street for a good share of trade. Success to their effort.

We are now to be favored with a visit from one of the foremost pianists of the day, in the person of Madame Fanny Bloomfield Zeissler, who is under engagement to Manager Albert Marks to give a series of concerts here in the Fall. Madame Zeissler is far more celebrated in the art loving circles of Europe than she is at home in America, not unnaturally. She was five years a pupil of Leschetitzky and has an enormous repertory.

Mrs. Edna Snell Poulsen of the Lyceum School of Expression has been spending some days in Stockton.

Another musical attraction has been booked to appear at the Auditorium, Chicago. A series of Wagnerian concerts has been arranged under the direction of Adolph Neuendorff, the well-known conductor; when such selections as the first act of "Die Walkure," the second act of "The Flying Dutchman" and the final scene of "Gotterdammerung" will be played. Several eminent artists will take part in these performances, amongst them Mme. Georgine von Januschowsky and Baron Berthold, the tenor of the Damrosch Opera Company. There will be an orchestra of sixty-five musicians.

At a meeting of the Ton Kunstler Verein at Berlin, Professor Hausmann and his son Victor Hau-mann demonstrated the advantages of the Janko Key-board Several compositions of Prof. Hausmann for this key-board were played on this instrument, and evoked great interest among the many musical authorities who were present. This instrument is taught at the convent in San Jose with much success. One of the Decker pianos furnished with the Janko keys can always be seen at Kohler & Chase's warerooms,. where it excites much curiosity.



"Ma Angeline" has achieved the honor of being sung in the open air of Merced by Mr. Dave Dowst, to the accompaniment of a brass band! Mr. Dowst's voice must be somewhat powerful. Or it would *ave dowst* his glim!

A new orchestra has recently been formed in Lodi for the furnishing of dance music.

The Needles Brass Band is getting up a minstrel show benefit toward purchasing new uniforms. It has a ten-year old drum-major, said to be quite picturesque as a wielder of the baton.

The Riverside Band has just received $75 worth of new music.

The San Luis Obispo Band gave a specimen open air concert lately which encourages the hope that they may acquire the habit of doing so weekly.

Santa Cruz.—Doctor H. J. Stewart tried to offer to the music lovers of Santa Cruz, Wednesday night, an evening of music of the highest order, and the doctor succeeded in spite of most discourteous treatment at the hands and ill-will of Bernard Mollenhauer of Oakland.

Of the concert itself, little need be said, Miss Flynn, sympathetic in timbre, although in her higher tones a little crude, was complaisant no end in responding to the demands of her pleased audience.

Donald de Villamil Graham rose to an occasion and gave three numbers in chief with a dainty encore response to each. Mr. Graham, like Miss Flynn, was annoyed by influenza, but by nerve-intensity sang superbly.

It was in Mollenhauer's numbers that the frost was noticeable. The man is a violinist of excellence and had agreed to be present in three numbers out of seven. When Dr. Stewart telegraphed him as to whether he would be on hand the violinist replied, or rather a lady of his family did, that the virtuoso was "down with lumbago." No effort was made by Mollenhauer to supply the deficiency. He had been announced and the affront to Doctor Stewart and the musical portion of the Santa Cruz public was severely felt and criticised.

LOS ANGELES

Since my last report we had the pleasure of seeing your Mr. Zifferer. Nothing noteworthy has happened. The first concert of the Dudley Buck Club was given before a good house, and if applause counts for something it ought to have been a success. Professor Cornell did his best to keep his forces together, the best number being Wiske's "Lullaby." The soloist was Miss Beresford Joy (what peculiar names some have). She has a well trained mezzo-alto voice which she uses with good effect. She should, however, be careful in using her higher notes. Miss Mollie Adele Brown has to study yet considerable.

Miss Katherine Kimball gave a recital. The house was but poorly attended. The programme was altogether too monotonous. Her best numbers were: "Schön Gretlein," a series of six songs by Von Fielitz, Messente's "Le Cospescule" was too trying for her, and for Schubert's "Erlking" she has not the voice nor conception.

Mrs Bloodgood, after an absence of two years abroad (?) gave a recital. Nature has bestowed upon her a fine material, a fine stage presence, but *voila tout.* She has a great deal to learn as yet—her intonation is at times faulty and her tremolo mars her fine voice, besides she sings without any feeling whatever. A pity for such a woman who would, with proper care and training, be an ornament to the lyric stage.

By the way, passing by a music store (not far away from the Post Office), I was eye and ear witness of a so-called lesson in vocal culture given to a young girl by the owner of that store. He ought to be put in a treadmill—and there are others beside him here about to whom I shall refer in my next.

L. W. Mason, the noted music teacher, died in Maine, July 14th, at the age of 68. He had long been prominent in the cultivation of vocal music in the public schools of Boston, Cincinnati, Louisville and elsewhere. His admirable system of tuition finally ripened into the publication of "Mason's charts;" a great aid to all singing schools. He went to Japan and introduced western song to the Orientals with surprising success, during his three years residence there. He afterwards visited Germany and introduced his improvements among the old conservatories there with good results. He was a relative of Lowell Mason.

SAN DIEGO

The past month has been unusually prolific in musical entertainments of a very high order. Independance Day was celebrated at the Hotel Del Coronado with a musical and literary programme given under the auspices of the "Patriotic Sons and Daughters of America." The spacious ballroom was crowded with nearly two thousand guests of the hotel and visitors from the San Diego side. The programme, which was excellent, included a contralto solo, "When Lovers Part," composed by Theo. Kammermayer, the leader of the hotel orchestra, sung by June Custer-Grainger. Professor Kammermayer is rapidly coming into public notice through his melodious songs, which are becoming more popular every day. The programme closed with the "Star Spangled Banner," sung by Lottie Buck-Porterfield.

On the 9th inst., at Fisher's Opera House, occurred the event of the season in musical and society circles, the song recital by Mrs. Katherine Bloodgood, who is today by common consent accorded a position nearly if not quite at the head of American contraltos. The interest in the event was intensified by the fact that Mrs. Bloodgood is a native of this city, where she passed her young womanhood and which she only left to complete her musical education in New York City. Mrs. Bloodgood has a deep rich contralto voice of great range and power. Her tones possess that quality called by the term velvety. The programme, which was artistic in the extreme and well chosen, was enthusiastically received. Among the numbers deserving special mention were "Elegie," by Massanet, violin obligato by Fred Baker, and "My Heart at Thy Sweet Voice," Saint Saëns. If anything in the way of a defect can be discovered in Mrs. Bloodgood's beautiful voice, it might be said that it sometimes lacks in dramatic intensity, seldom in artistic finish. The accompaniments, exquisitely played by Mrs. Walter S. Young, added greatly to the pleasure of the evening.

On Tuesday night, the 14th inst., the Philharmonic Society of sixty voices, under the able direction of Mr. Walter S. Young, gave its third public concert to a packed house in the auditorium of the First M. E. Church. The chorus numbers were all excellently rendered, showing a gratifying improvement since the last appearance of the society. The soloists were Miss Myrtle Arndt (soprano), Mrs. W. A. Edwards (soprano), Mr. Noble (tenor), Walter S. Young (baritone),

Mrs. W. S. Young (pianist). The concert as a whole was an unqualified success, reflecting great credit upon Director Young.

The Amphion Club, the select musical organization of the city, held its last fortnightly musicale for this season at the home of Mrs. Geo. Puterbaugh on Thursday, the 24th inst. After a short Beethoven programme the annual election of officers was held, resulting in the re-election of all the present incumbents as follows: President, Mrs. Noah Hodge; Vice-President, Mrs. H. K. Arndt; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Gertrude Gilbert. It was decided to pursue the plan of the past year during the coming year, which begins October 1st, with the addition of three public concerts to be given during the season.

Hints to Young Violinists.

Violin practicing should be done occasionally before a mirror, where one can watch the position and detect errors of manipulation; one even listens more critically, the image seeming like another player, whom it is always easier to criticise than one's self. The pupil should seek every opportunity to hear good music, and especially to hear the great violinists. To hear a master in his art is indeed a liberal education, and of value equal with instruction and daily practice. To hear even a mediocre performer is sometimes valuable as a lesson in what not to do. Music of all grades, classic, romantic and popular, and of all nationalities, German, French, Russian, Scandinavian, etc., should be heard and played to secure catholicity of taste. Of course the greatest amount of time must be given to classics, for above all must a love for the best and purest be inculcated. The student should also be encouraged to play with other students, and with musicians when possible, to the accompaniment of the piano, or in duets, trios, etc., of different combinations of instruments. The training derived from this ensemble practice is of inestimable value. The performer's sense of rhythm is thus developed. She learns to yield herself to other instruments, and the relation of one instrument to another, while her intonation becomes more acutely correct, and she in every way gains in courage and consequent facility of expression.

The student should learn to memorize her music. Her repertoire will thus be always available. She will, when not confined to the printed sheet, give more thought to the contents of the music and its reproduction, thus learning to play with greater freedom and authority. The pleasant effect on the listener will also be enhanced. Moreover, should the student go to Europe for further study, she will certainly command greater respect and attention than she would were she a "slave to her notes."

—*Ladies' Home Journal.*

The Ruination of Voices.

That the present high pitch is detrimental to the voice cannot be doubted for a moment, says the Nineteenth Century. The ordinary voice is always deficient in compass upward, and when it comes to singing some of Bach's and Handel's music at a semitone higher than the pitch for which it was written the effect to the vocalist is as painful as the effect too often is to the listener. This fact was fully recognized by the Bach choir when they adopted the lower continental pitch at their last festival. The great majority of our singers repudiate the high pitch, and in most cases where an orchestra is not employed, as in churches and at vocal concerts, a much lower standard is used, corresponding very closely with the French or classical one. In such circumstances, of course, we sometimes hear it said that the singers use the lower pitch because their vocal gifts are insufficient or are on the wane. When Mr. Hullah drew up a report on the pitch question in 1859 he made this observation.

"Some impediments stand in the way of ascertaining directly the effects of the present high pitch on the quality and probable duration of the voice. A remonstrance in respect of it on the part of a singer might be too readily interpreted into a confession of weakness, and a premature decay of physical power might be imputed to an artist who protested against the gratuitous exertion which an extravagantly high pitch obliges him to undergo."

That which was here indicated as probable has really come to pass in the case of Mr. Sims Reeves, Mme. Patti and others who have declared against the high pitch. Unfortunately the number of singers who are independent enough to brave the risks of a protest is comparatively small and the result is that the great majority remain silent as to the existing state of things. They sing and "make no sign," but they are prematurely wearing out their voices all the same. Now that the agitation in favor of a lower pitch has set in the vocalists ought to join in it with enthusiasm. So far as the players are concerned it does not matter very much whether the standard is lowered or not, so that it be uniform; to the singer it is a matter of first importance, that the pitch should be depressed whether the standard adopted be the "diapason normal" or any other.—*Presto.*

Music Teachers' National Association at Denver.

From a correspondent of the *Musical Courier* we quote the following notes:

The Music Teachers' National Association convention closed a four days' session on Friday evening, July 10th. It was enjoyable in many ways, yet could scarcely be called a success.

President Kroeger claims that it was a success at St. Louis last year. Then why is the association $1,000 in debt, and why has not Mr. Perkins had his salary as secretary for two years? I believe there is 87 cents in the treasury. Mr. Perkins said Emil Liebling called him a "darn'd fool," but nevertheless he will serve one year more on future expectations. It is generally thought that Denver is too far West, hence such a small attendance. That is only partially true. For several years now interest in the association has been lagging, and I don't believe Mr. Perkins would have his salary if the meetings had been, say in Buffalo.

The programs this year were not sufficiently attractive to warrant an expensive trip. The recital given by Godowsky was the only event which was satisfactory artistically, and what a real genius he is; so entirely without mannerisms.

One of the best concerts was given by home talent—Mr. and Mrs. Sobrino, Mrs. Whiteman, Miss Dupré, Mrs. Robinson, Mr. Houseley, and Adams Owen. I felt specially proud of Mr. Sobrino. His forte is certainly piano playing, and he ought never to do anything else, only practice and play. When he does not play well it is simply because he is out of practice, or has become a little careless. At this concert he "showed off" beautifully.

The first day's session was given up to business in the morning, a trolley ride in the afternoon, and an exceedingly pleasant reception at the Brown Palace Hotel in the evening. There were many meetings of former friends, who had not seen each other since the old conservatory days at Leipsic.

Wednesday, was to have opened with an essay by N. Coe Stewart. He did not appear and the next thing was Woman in Music, by James Hamilton Howe, of San Francisco, read by Mrs. Stevenson, of St. Louis. The subject is worn, and no one seems to have anything new to say.

At 10:30 W. Waugh Lauder, of Chicago, gave a Wagner lecture-recital. He claims to be the originator of this form of entertainment, but I believe I am not mistaken in saying that Amy Fay did that kind of work before Mr. Lauder was known to the public.

The M. T. N. A. would not feel at home without an essay from Mme. Brinkerhoff. She was not here herself, but sent an essay on Pure Tone and Diction, interesting to teachers rather than music lovers.

A talk on Mendelssohn by Professor Kappes, of Denver, must have been very enjoyable to our visitors. He was personally acquainted with the musician and could tell much about him which has not been printed.

At 3:30 W. S. Sterling, of Cincinnati, gave an organ recital. That is, he tried to, but the organ was in such a condition that I should not have blamed him had he refused to play altogether.

At 8 P. M. was a miscellaneous concert, at which the artists were Mr. Lauder, Mrs. N. S. Stevenson and Miss Thistle, of St. Louis, and Mr. A. O. Bauer, of Lexington, Mo.

Mrs. Stevenson gave us about the only novelty on any program, the Romanze and Finale from the A minor concerto of Paderewski. She played with much power and vigor, and is a very attractive artist, but in her solo numbers the following day she was disappointing. Delicacy of touch was left out of the performance, and she rushed through her pieces as though she were playing on time. I will except the Nevins Barcarolle, which she played beautifully. Perhaps it was the altitude, but this "rushing" was a fault of nearly every visiting pianist except Godowsky. At one concert Mr. Lauder made a horrible muss of Liszt's arrangement of the Mendelssohn wedding music, and as for Mr. Bauer, he looked positively excited even when playing adagio.

On Thursday at 9 A. M. was read a paper by Charles H. Farnsworth, of Boulder, Music in the High Schools. Considerable discussion followed regarding the using of boys' voices during the changing period, but no one convinced anyone else.

At 10:30 President Kroeger, of St. Louis, gave a piano recital, playing a very fine program. He as well as Mr. Bauer complained of shortness of breath in this altitude. We are one mile above sea level.

At 2 P. M. H. W. Greene, of New York, read an essay, The M. T. N. A., its Past and its Possi-

bilities. He sees the need of a radical change, and I believe, as the next president, he will do very useful work. He proposed a plan which naturally met with opposition. It was to have the meetings always held in some central place, to have permanent buildings, and a summer educational program.

The "central" place would of course not be far from New York city. Very nice for the East, but expensive for some of us out West. If the Eastern teachers found a trip to Denver too expensive, how about Western teachers going East every year? Well, if silver wins next November, perhaps we can afford it!

At 3 P. M. was a business meeting, at which the following officers were elected: President, H. W. Greene, New York city; secretary, H. S. Perkins, Chicago; treasurer, F. W. Parker, Madison, Wis.; executive committee, R. Huntington Woodward, Brooklyn; F. H. Tubbs and L. A. Russell, New York city; program committee, H. R. Shelley, G. Smith, and J. C. Griggs, New York- Next meeting place, New York city.

At 4.30 a piano recital was *not* given by George C. Vieh, of St. Louis, as he did not arrive.

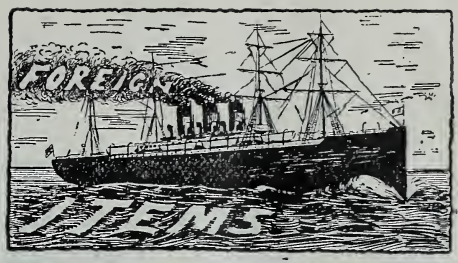
Friday morning the program opened with an essay by W. J. Whiteman, of Denver, on The Child Voice, and How to Treat It, illustrated with a class of children. I have often mentioned Mr. Whiteman's excellent work. The children under him will never have their voices injured. They never sing too high, too low or too loud, and are developed musically.

At 2 P. M. an essay was given on Piano Methods, Mechanical Aids, &c., in Piano Instruction. Mr. Lauder has been a very valuable member, always filling in vacancies and having something to say whenever necessary. In fact, he seemed quite indispensable.

After this came Godowsky's recital. Three Chopin studies arranged for the left hand by him showed great ingenuity. His recital was the gem of the convention, and there was much to learn from listening to him. If more such work could be done I am sure the convention would be better attended and Mr. Perkins would get his salary.

The concert in the evening by local artists brought the sessions to a close, and the next day the artists hied them to the mountains. One of the hardest workers was the accompanist, Mrs. E. S. Worrell, who did her work to the satisfaction of everyone. The local committee takes pride in stating that the cash receipts will pay all the expenses of the meetings.

CORDELLA D. SMISSAERT.



Miss Strong, an American prima sop.ano, is engaged by Col. J. H. Mapleson for his forthcoming American tour.

Marie Barna(rd), a California lady, has signed a contract for four years with Hubert of London.

"The Coronation Ballet." The ballet performed at Moscow during the coronation festivities in scenic and choreographic beauty surpassed anything as yet seen in Russia. It will cost 100,000 rubles. It is named Daïta. The scene is in Japan, everything is thoroughly Japanese, and the music is written on original themes from Japan.

Last year in Germany Leoncavallo's "I' Pagliacci" was performed 467 times, and the "Cavalleria Rusticana" 505 times.

A statue of Mozart is to be erected at Prague, in front of the Conservatory, within sight of the Villa Bertramka, where he composed Don Giovanni.

Brahms has received the medal of honor for arts and letters from the Emperor of Austria, being the first musician on whom the distinction has been conferred.

Several great musical festivals will be given in the provincial cities of England this fall. At least one important original work is usually given at these annual festivals.

Mme. Marchesi's memoirs, which are said to abound in anecdote of noted musicians of the day, are shortly to go to press.

The great Dutch pianist, Sieveking, is to make a tour of the leading American cities the coming season.

Madame Scalchi, the eminent contralto, will return to America next season.

Sigfried Wagner is announced as one of the conductors of the Bayreuth festivals, the others being Hans Richter and Felix Mottl.

D'Asty another star has risen in the prima donna horizon, who it is said will rival Patti.

Emma Nevada is filling a very successful engagement in Italy.

TRANSCRIPTION

über das Lied:

ICH HAB' DICH LIEB.

MME. BILLONI-ZIFFERER. OP. 8.

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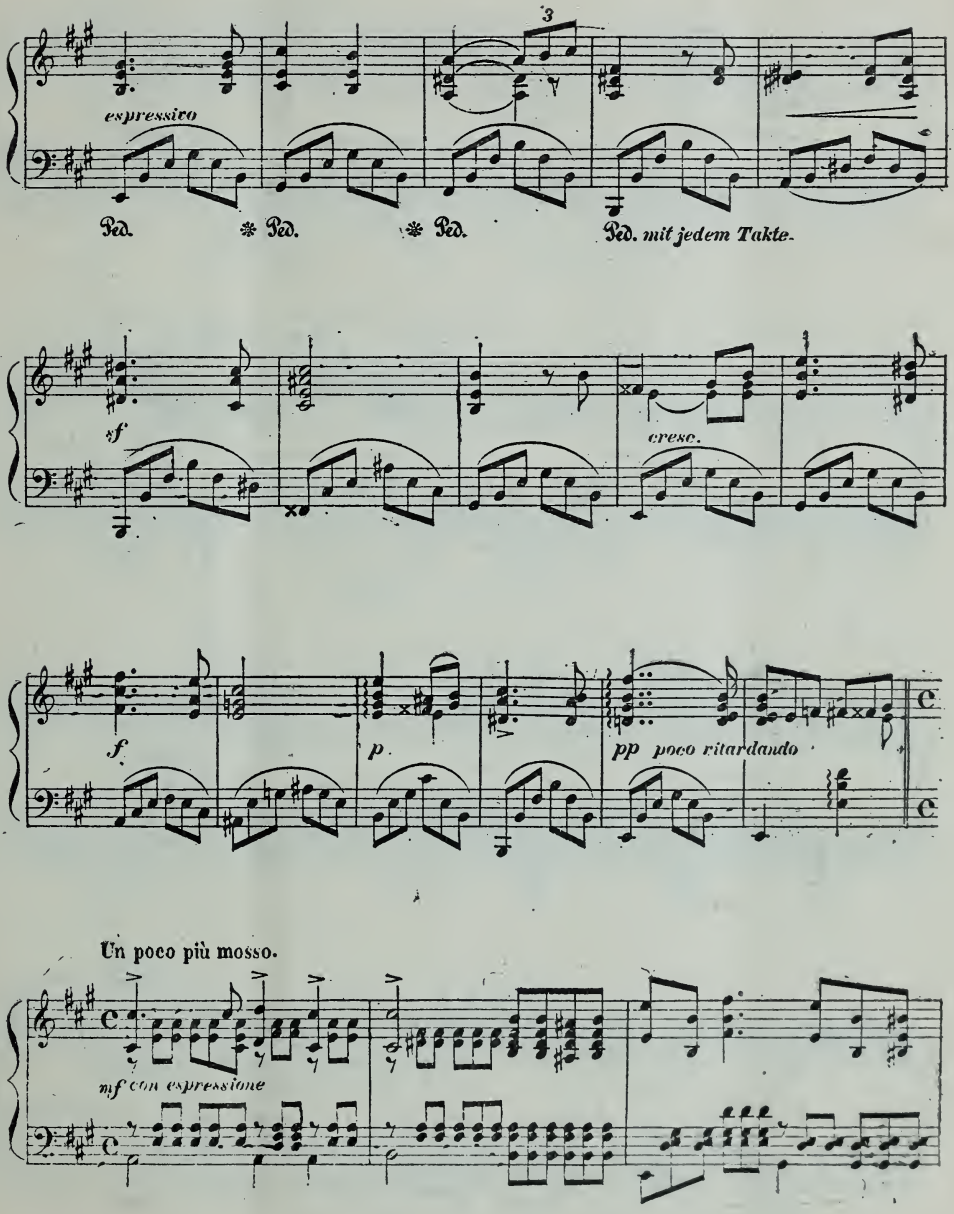
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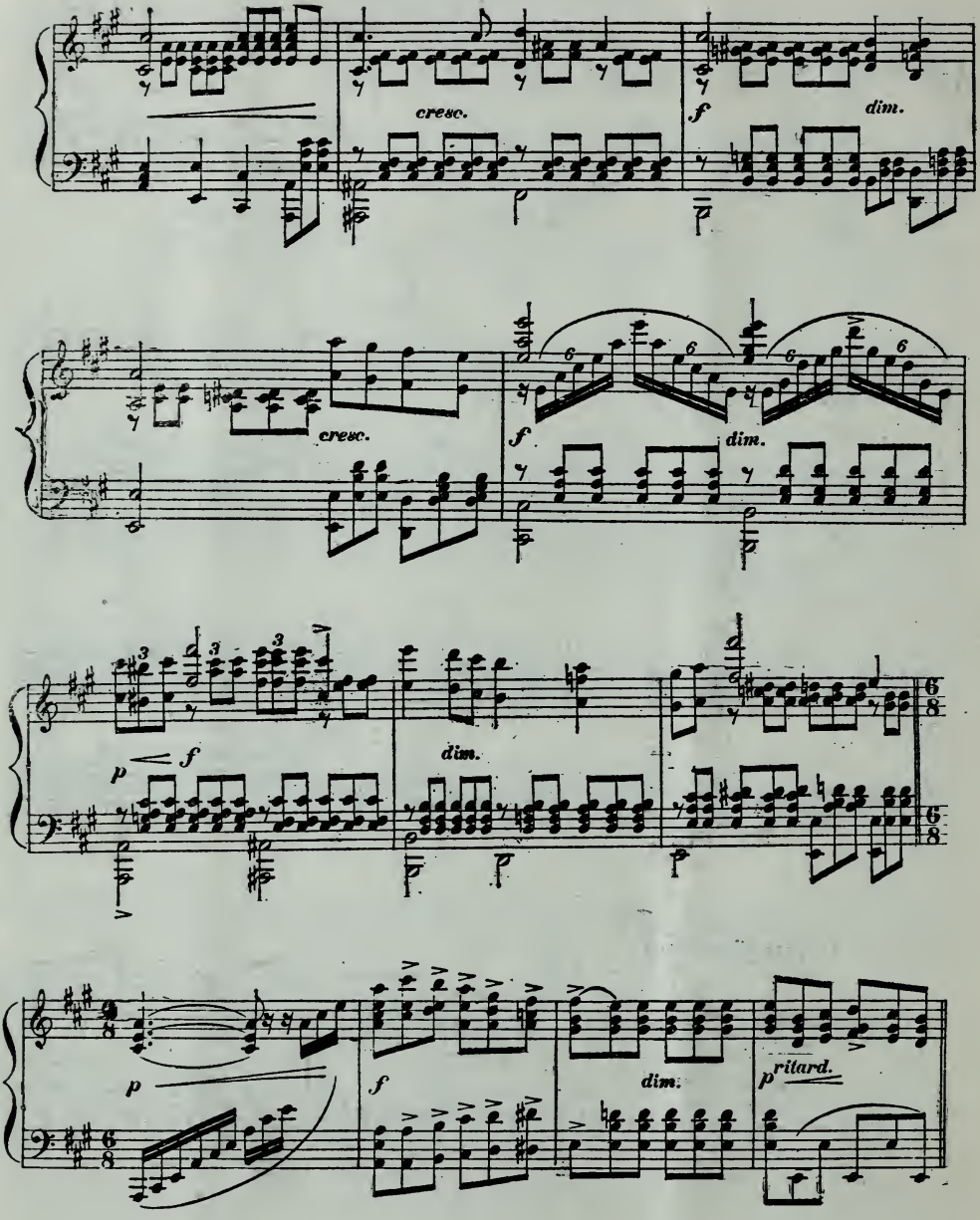
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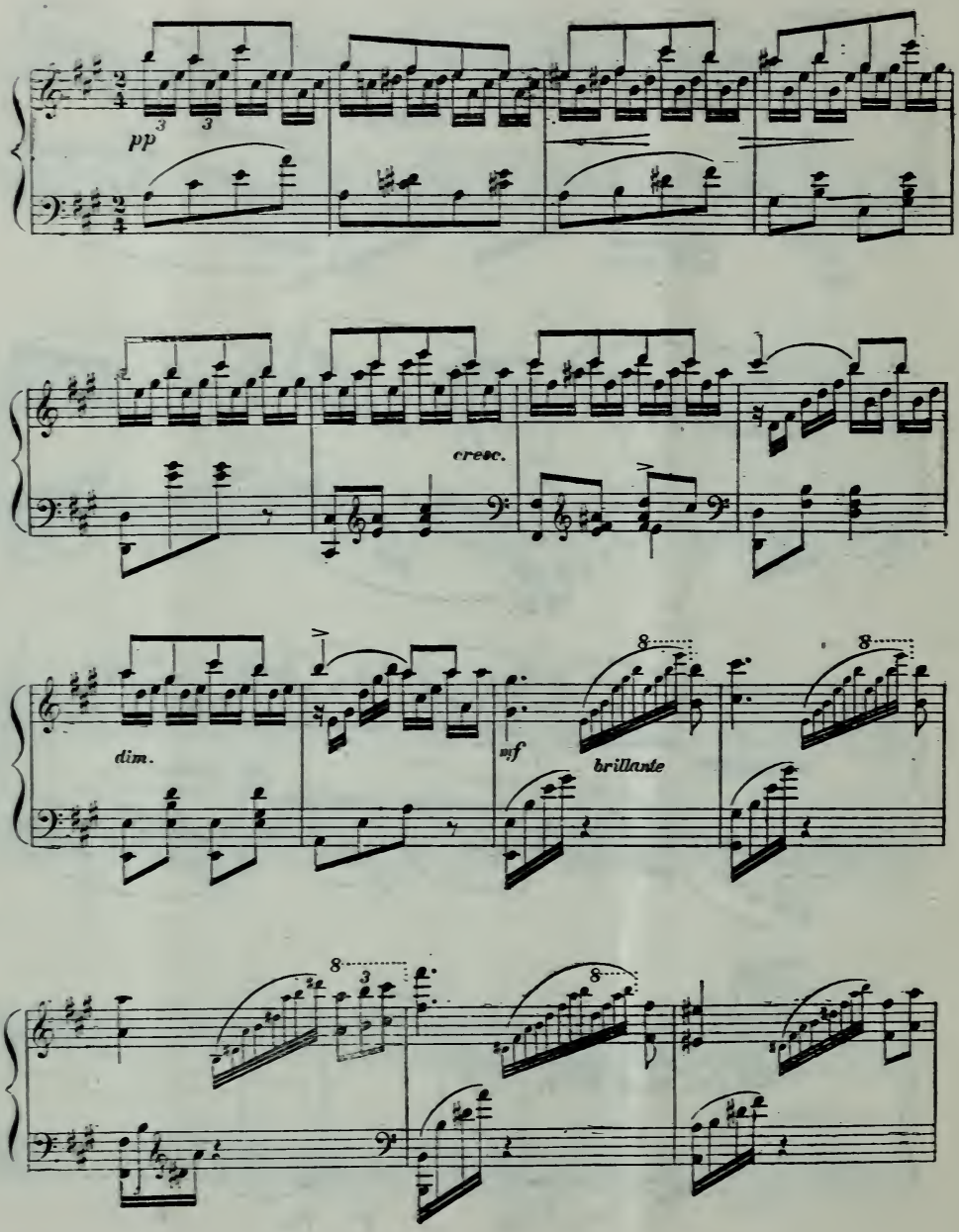
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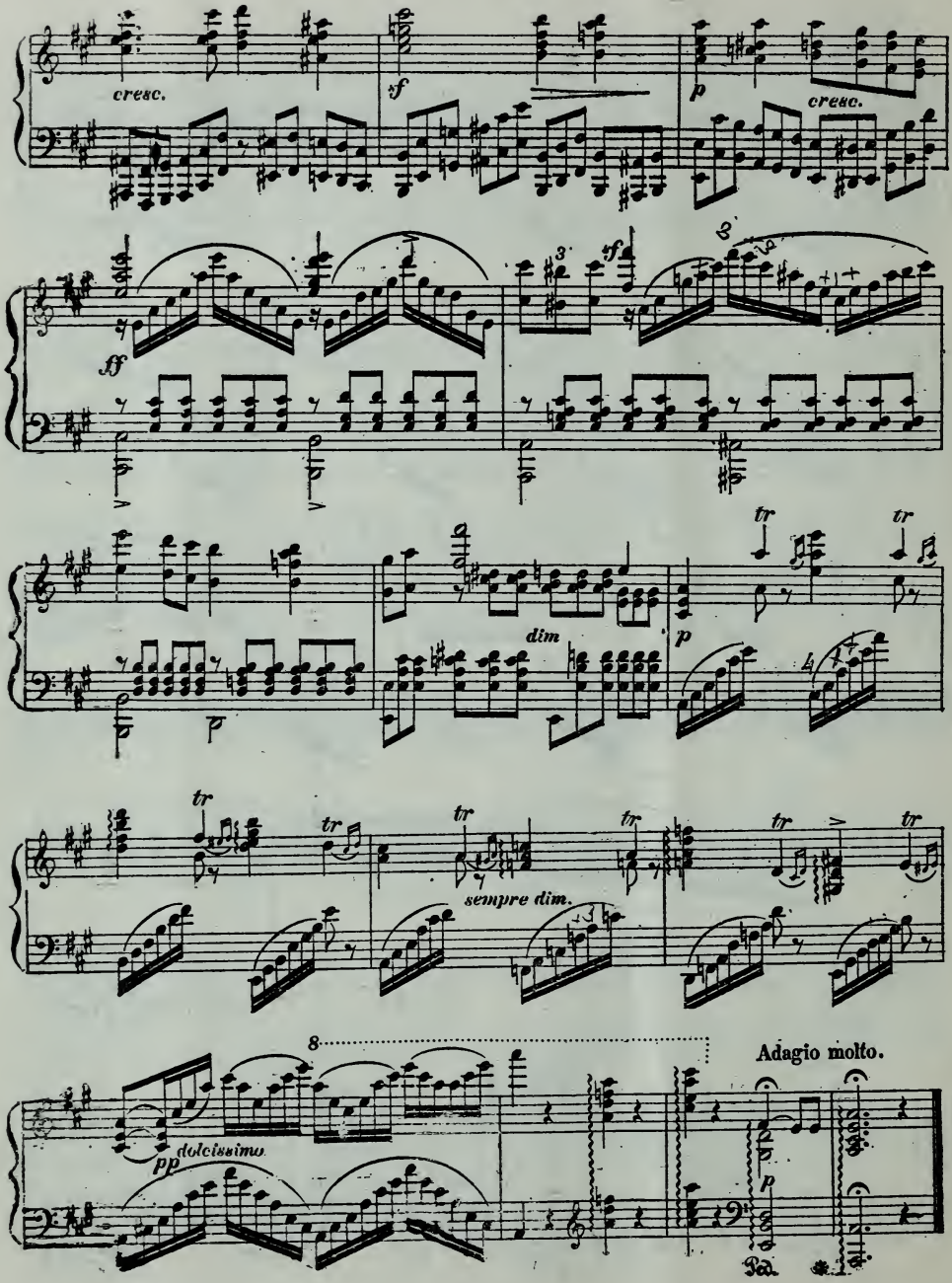
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tr
sempre dim.
8
Adagio molto.
pp
dolcissimo
p

California Musical Journal.

F. J. ZIFFERER, Editor and Publisher.

Oakland Branch under the management of Miss Mabel Hussey.

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SAN FRANCISCO, JULY & AUGUST, 1896.

We are pleased to announce that the JOURNAL's subscription list has been increased, since its last issue, by the addition of six hundred new names, all from the Southern part of the State, most of them prepaid !

It is not unlikely that if a musical prodigy, who appears before the admiring gaze of the public, and enlists its hearty applause and commendation for proficiency, were to allow us to see the seamy side of her career, our enthusiasm might possibly be changed to indignation. This thought is suggested by what we recently heard of one poor little wretch, who is presumed to be a wonderfully talented child-pianist. If any other child should chance to envy her, a glance at this little girl's itinerary may mitigate the pangs. Our specimen prodigy is routed out of bed at 5 A. M., cooks breakfast, dresses the other kids, washes down the front steps, goes to school—which takes at least six hours, and is compelled to practice five hours daily. She also takes lessons in elocution and languages besides dancing! This is said to be the amount of work demanded of a young girl who recently had a benefit concert, wherein she earned $800 for her family. How all this work is accomplished in a day which only begins at 5 A. M., is scarcely more of a puzzle than though the day should begin night before last. We are forced to think this poor child's career is less a matter for public applause than for the attention of the society for the prevention of cruelty to children.

A casual glance at the musical supplements lately given away with one of the Sunday papers, suggests that their orthography might be altered "to advantage" if submitted to a competent *examiner* before going to print. Even a tune intended to catch the approbation of Tar Flat will lose nothing in attractiveness by being correctly written, and will cost not a cent more for ink and paper when published.

Under a portrait of Massenet *The Wasp* makes this startling announcement:— "The great French composer has just completed a new opera which he calls 'Escharmond.' It was written expressly for Miss Sybil Sanderson."

"Esclairmonde," so similar in title, was sung by Miss Sybil several years ago. Has "A Sharp" ever heard of the latter work ?

The Metronome.

The Dominant, a wide awake and valuable musical journal, recently published an elaborate and very instructive article upon this most ingenious rhythmic guide. The author's initials, "A. A. C," guarantee for this and other cognate musical subjects a thorough, intelligent and scientific treatment.

The multitudinous indications as to time which have grown up in the last two centuries and now used by composers, the

" movement words," as the Germans call them, form quite a respectable lexicon of themselves. An ingenious tablet for the music desk, recently invented here, gives no less than three hundred of these terms with their accepted definitions, ordinarily employed by writers of music. Each of these, of course, has some well-defined rhythmic meaning, which the metronome with its reversed, pendulum, graded and regulated by a sliding weight, marks with precision the required beat. It is not to be supposed, however, that the Italian terms, still retained in music, are definitely marked by the metronome, but the following table will show the approximation of the leading speed terms to the metronomic scale :

Largo,	-	from 40	to	80	beats	per min.
Adagio,		" 50	" 60	"	"	
Larghetto,		" 60	" 72	"	"	
Andante,		" 72	" 84	"	"	
Andantino,		" 84	" 100	"	"	
Allegretto,		" 100	" 120	"	"	
Allegro,		" 120	" 156	"	"	
Presto,		" 156	" 180	"	"	
Prestissimo,		" 180	" 208	"	"	

These figures convey a general idea as between slow and quick, but cannot inform us precisely how slow or how quick. The metronome can do this to the 208th part of a minute, and for this reason it would appear desirable that composers who value the reputation of their works should drop the conventional terms in favor of the more precise indications of the metronome.

The able writer of the article referred to concludes by showing that even among the best writers no two interpret these "movement words" precisely alike. "All this want of precision could be done away with by using the metronomic figured indications alone, or at most accompanied only by terms such as apply to style and not to degree of movement."

Dr. Alfred Stelzner, of Dresden, has manufactured two new stringed instruments to fill the gaps existing in the violin family between the violoncello and the double bass, and between the same instrument and the viola. The former he calls the "cellone," the latter the "violetta." In order to test the value of these innovations, prizes of £25 each have been offered for two compositions illustrating the advantages of the new instruments.

Some wise man has said : "Let me write the songs for a country, and I care not who makes the laws." The following are some of the latest and most popular songs that have been published :

"You Don't Find a Girl Like My Girl Every Day."
"He Got the Rinky Dink."
"My Dad's the Engineer."
"Little Johnny Johnson Is My Sunday Beau."
"What's the Matter with Your Feet?"
"Down in Hogan's Alley."
"When the Little Ones are Coming Home from School."
"The Ringtail Colored Band."
"My Little Polly 's a Peach."
"Just Tell Them That You Saw Me."
"She May Have Seen Better Days."
"If They'd Only Write and Ask Me to Come Home."
"You Know You Drowned My Kitty."
"It's a Thing That Adam Never Had to Do."
"On the Benches in the Park."
"My Mother was a Lady."
"The Bully."
"Ma Angelina."

With a generation of such industrious song composers as this nation has at present, who are deluging the country with songs like the above, a Congress of law makers is of little use. What the country most needs is a large and well organized army to kill off the song composers.—*Pomona Progress.*

At a violin recital in Ocean Grove, N. J. the other night an Italian fiddler got so mad at his instrument, which would not "tune," that he threw it down and stamped on it! This unusual diversion occurred in the middle of his piece, before a large audience. He however immediately brought out two more fiddles, and thus reinforced, finished the morceau. This freak if intended as an advertisement, though a trifle expensive of Cremonas was to say the least decidedly original.

The summer season has been indeed a time of vacation in music circles, almost all of our professional people hieing themselves away, returning but lately. It is at this time that the inland town, mountain resorts and watering places have the pleasure of hearing and seeing the artists whose work we enjoy in the winter. To be sure there are those who leave town seeking rest in every particular, but there are others who hide not their lights under bushels, leaving pleasant memories wherever they have tarried. Time and space forbid a complete mention of the many delightful circles discovered as far south as Los Angeles; wanderers from home, enjoying the sea breezes at Santa Barbara—campers in the Santa Cruz mountains, etc., all of which included musicians from the Oakland side of the bay. Some of our sweet singers found their way to Lake Tahoe and Mt. Shasta, but one of the merriest parties was that found at the Hotel de Redwood, where dwelt for a time, a coterie of musicians who gave a splendid concert on the Fourth of July—among the participants were Chas. Parcells, violinist, who rendered some of his best solos, accompanied by his mother, some other soloists and a good quartette assisted by H. A. Melvin and Ernest E. Brangs.

A little further south, on the line of the Narrow Guage, at Ben Lomond, one might have found the joliest crowd imaginable. Here, several members of the Ebell Society spent the summer, making the woods merry with laughter and song. Under their auspices, a fine concert was given on the 3rd of July in the Club House of the Hotel Ben Lomond; a concert that would merit a place among our winter programmes.

Mrs. Eva Wren passed several weeks this summer at Glenbrook Farm and Glen Ellen, both in Sonoma County.

Miss Grace Carroll has been singing in the Bush street Synagogue and at the Plymouth Congregational Church during the illness of Mrs. John Madden.

Mr. Ed Thornton sang several selections at a concert given at Congress Springs under the direction of Carl Maertens, director of the Tivoli orchestra.

Mrs. Wagor Coplin has returned from her camp at Mayburg called "Dew drop Inn."

Miss Cora Jenkins has been summering at Lake Tahoe, in which vicinity, Miss Sophie Newland also spent her vacation.

Mrs. Martin Schultz is pleasing the members of the First Congregational Church with her sweet voice.

Mrs. Blake Alverson added another spray to her laurels by her magnificent rendition of a patriotic solo on the occasion of the raising of the stars and stripes, at Monterey, on the 7th of July. It is a fact that, because of the heat and length of the programme, the people had begun to leave, when they were recalled, some over a block away, by her full, rich contralto tones. Bravo! En passant, it may interest the many friends of Mrs. Blake Alverson to know that being recently offered a most lucrative position by a New York manager, a position which would bring her $500 weekly, she has considered the matter and decided to refuse; preferring Oakland, her pleasant work here and the intercourse with congenial friends. Because of this decision, she has enlarged her studio rooms and furnished a most delightful music-room, where not only her pupils find pleasant environment but where recitals will be given from time to time. Her work in the English Lutheran Choir is winning her much praise. The choir consists entirely of her pupils. Miss Mabel Hussey has accepted the position of organist there, and in a few weeks her labors will be made more pleasant by the presentation of a pipe organ from one of San Francisco's capitalists.

Miss Maybelle Jordan, violinist, has been resting during the summer at Ben Lomond.

OAKLAND.

Piano and Vocal.

Miss Maud L. Davis	Central Bank Bldg
D. P. Hughes (Vocal)	1020 Myrtle
Miss Caroline Potter	600 17th
Miss Ina Griffin	1.36 Myrtle
Mrs. A. L. Gutterson	1265 Castro
J. W. Metcalf	Central Bank Bldg
Miss Mabel Hussey	1108½ Broadway
F. Katzenbach	1008 Tenth St, Oakland

OAKLAND BUSINESS CARDS.

WALTER F. LEWIS, Dentist, 462½ Thirteenth Street. Residence, Linda Vista Terrace. Telephone, No. 1093.

MRS. BLAKE ALVERSON,
Voice Culture
1108½ Broadway. Oakland.

With the beginning of the new season a Choral Society has been organized under the leadership of Ben Clark, the efficient director of the choir of the First Presbyterian Church. It is composed of soloists from Oakland, Fruitvale, Alameda and Berkeley, who have gathered themselves together for the study of madrigals, glees and other old English music.

Mr. Alfred Wilkie, the tenor, was never in better voice than on the evening of July 27th, when his company made its appearance in Berkeley. The comic opera given that evening, allows the addition of many famous songs in which the artists showed to good advantage.

A new paper, called "Artistic Life" will be issued not later than September 1st from both San Francisco and Oakland. An Artists Bureau is to be one of its leading features. Its Oakland editor alone would be warrant, sufficient, for its literary success.

The Oakland Oratorio Society will shorten its vacation by one month beginning its rehearsals the first Monday in August—it being intended to commence work on the "Light of Asia" at once, preparing it for rendition this fall, at which time the San Francisco Oratorio Society also will join in swelling those mighty choruses.

Correspondence.

NEW YORK.

EDITOR MUSICAL JOURNAL:—The operatic world is still in great excitement; the bankrupt firm of Abbey's has received a new lease of life. The concern has been turned into a stock company and Wm. Steinway has been elected president of the company while the former partners, Abbey, Schaffel and Grau, receive a salary and none of them are allowed to dabble in comic opera ventures or come in too close contact with comic opera prima donnas. Grand opera is therefore assured for next season. We are also told, that Col. Mapleson will come to this country with the finest opera company that ever lived or breathed. Walter Deunrosch will have his German opera company, and several managers talk of doing grand and big things, but will let us know in the sweet by-and-by what it all means. If all things come out as anticipated. there is no doubt that we shall have a brilliant season and musical art generally will flourish from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

ARGUS.

Concerts

The Musical Advancement Club gave the first concert in June with the assistance of some outside talent. This institution ought to thrive, having as it does *A. Mann* at the helm, if she does wear skirts!

The Mendelssohn Club of singers under J. J. Morris, gave a sort of birthday concert at the Y. M. C. A. on May 3rd to show what a year's practice could do. The exhibit was so delightful to the crowded audience, that all hands and the director must feel quite proud of the club.

Richard Wagner.

The *Musical Record* of May published the following interesting article on the life of the great Musician.

Genius is as difficult of comprehension as Deity (even to itself), and its qualities are as hard to define. A great author who often wrote sophistries, but this time spoke truth, said; "Genius is an inborn bent of mind, assisted by the qualities (rightly directed by natural instincts) of concentration, observation, and comparision, united to a great capacity for mental discipline." While this sentence defines the qualities of genius, it does not illustrate the difference between the man so gifted and his ordinary brother,—a difference which in degree is as a sephyr compared to a cyclone. No general rule will define or illustrate it, for it has as many varieties as there are winds. Wagner belonged to no class. He was *sui generis*.

Wagner's genius was inborn, but it was developed and broadened by his experience. His life's periods cannot be marked by the names of years. The dates in his life indicate only his opportunities. And they were his, not because of particular efforts on his part, but because of a dawning comprehension of the greatness of his works upon others.

This sketch is of necessity too short to chronicle even the more important epochs in the life of Wagner, and I have contented myself with the consideration of his youth and the underlying principle of his life and work.

Wagner was born in Leipsic on the 22d of May, 1813. His father died while he was still a baby. His mother soon after married an actor, Ludwig Geyer, who died when his stepson was seven years old.

The Tivoli

Is worthy of all praise for the season of admirable grand opera productions now running to crowded houses. Gustav Hinrichs who learned his business in this house and who has gone on learning until he is one of the very best conductors in America is giving us "Romeo and Juliet," "Faust," "Rigoletto," "Lucia," "Carmen" "I' Pagliacci," "Mignon," etc., about as well for fifty cents as we ever heard any of these works for thrice the price. Although the artists are not De Retzkes or Albanis, the singing of Natali and Nina Bertini Humphreys, Michelena, de Vries and Abramoff are quite good enough in conjunction with the excellent stock company and the thoroughly good orchestra to give a round and most satisfactory performance, one which it would be impossible to hear for so little money in any place in the world but the Tivoli. Humperdink's "Hansel and Gretel" is a novelty soon to be produced.

The Baldwin Theatre

After a short season of John Drew was closed until July 27th to reopen with the Empire Theater Company from New York in "Bohemia," a new play by Clyde Fitch.

The California

Has with the Stockwell Stock Company given a month of society plays with Herbert Kelsey for leading man, followed by two weeks of Frederick Warde and Rose Coghlan in a very fleshly and rather revolting dramatic version of "Carmen," a theme only made tolerable by Bizet's beautiful operatic version. "The Merchant of Venice" happily supplanted "Carmen" on the 27th.

The Columbia

Has been crowded by the strongly attractive performances of the Frawley Company in its repertoire of choice plays. Miss Maxine Elliott, who, although a charming actress, is more noted for her beauty, having gone to Australia, a new leading lady has been secured in Louise Thorndyke Boucicault. "The Highest Bidder" is the play for the present week.

Although the company has been strengthened by the engagement of several high priced leads, we hardly find the performances any more satisfactory than those given during their previous season here.

THE ROYAL KALLISOZON (or beauty preserving) Co. has just imported from England the following perfect toilet articles:

Kalliderma, or beautiful skin, for softening and beautifying the face and hands, **$1.00.**

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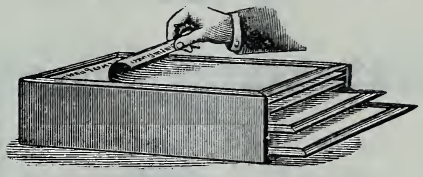

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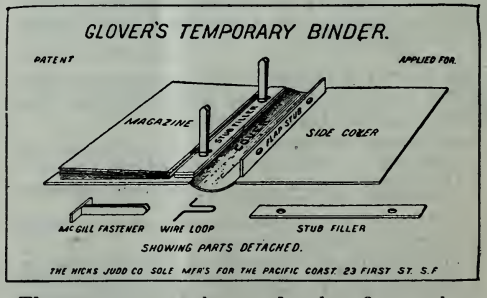

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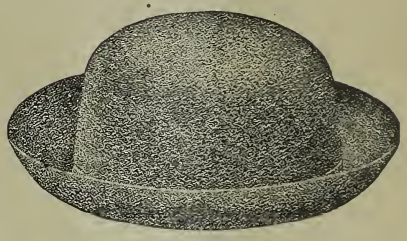

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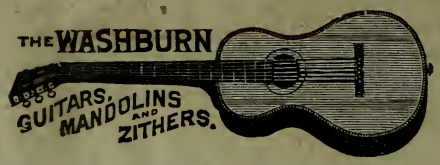

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